

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

DATE: June 23, 2004

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 6:14 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Mary Moriarty Adams, Chairwoman
Sherron Franklin
Lynn McWhirter
William Oliver
Lincoln Plowman
Steve Talley

Absent Members

Scott Schneider

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 350, 2004 – approves a transfer and increase of \$24,810 in the 2004 Budget of the Department of Public Safety, Police Division (Non-Lapsing Federal Grants Funds), to fund regional training on domestic violence conducted by the Julian Center and to fund Weed and Seed initiatives determined after the budget process, financed by a transfer between characters and a grant from the Federal Department of Justice
“Do Pass”
Vote: 6-0

PROPOSAL NO. 351, 2004 – approves an increase of \$312,761 in the 2004 Budget of the Department of Public Safety, Emergency Management and Planning Division (Non-Lapsing Federal Grants Fund), to purchase National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) certified air purifying respirators and chemical warfare canisters and to fund additional needs of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, financed by grants from the Federal Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
“Do Pass”
Vote: 6-0

PROPOSAL NO. 352, 2004 – approves an increase of \$3,200 in the 2004 Budget of the Department of Public Safety, Animal Care and Control Division (Consolidated County Fund), to pay for the design and installation of billboard advertisements promoting the Canine Crime Stoppers program, financed by private donations
“Do Pass”
Vote: 6-0

PROPOSAL NO. 353, 2004 – approves an increase of \$2,450 in the 2004 Budget of Marion County Superior Court (State and Federal Grants Fund) to provide security services to the court extended to June 30, 2004, funded by a grant from Southeast Umbrella Organization

“Do Pass”

Vote: 6-0

PROPOSAL NO. 354, 2004 – approves an increase of \$10,000 in the 2004 Budget of Marion County Superior Court (State and Federal Grants Fund) to appropriate a grant for court interpreter services, funded by a grant from Division of State Court Administration

“Do Pass”

Vote: 6-0

PROPOSAL NO. 355, 2004 – approves an increase of \$25,000 in the 2004 Budget of Marion County Superior Court (State and Federal Grants Fund) to provide a community work services coordinator for Community Court., funded by a grant from Department of Justice, Southeast Umbrella Organization

“Do Pass”

Vote: 6-0

PROPOSAL NO. 356, 2004 – approves a transfer of \$52,500 in the 2004 Budget of the Marion County Superior Court (State and Federal Grants Fund) to transfer Character 01 money to Character 02 and 03, to cover additional programming and operating expenses at the Community Court

“Do Pass”

Vote: 6-0

PROPOSAL NO. 357, 2004 – approves an increase of \$496,380 in the 2004 Budget of Marion County Superior Court (State and Federal Grants Fund) to appropriate Young Offenders grant for salaries and contractual attorneys for the Expedited Court, funded by a grant from U.S. Department of Justice, Edward Byrne Memorial Grant

“Do Pass”

Vote: 6-0

JTAC PRESENTATION – Justice Frank Sullivan, Indiana Supreme Court, and Melinda Haag, Marion County Justice Agency

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council met on Wednesday, June 23, 2004. Chairwoman Mary Moriarty Adams called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., with the following members present: Sherron Franklin, Lynn McWhirter, William Oliver, Lincoln Plowman and Steve Talley. Absent was Scott Schneider.

JTAC PRESENTATION – Justice Frank Sullivan, Indiana Supreme Court, and Melinda Haag, Marion County Justice Agency

Chairwoman Moriarty Adams asked for consent to move the Judicial Technology & Automation Committee (JTAC) presentation to the beginning of the agenda. Consent was given by all members of the Committee.

Justice Frank Sullivan, Indiana Supreme Court, presented the JTAC Presentation, which is attached as Exhibits A and B.

Chairwoman Moriarty Adams said she is very committed to assisting Justice Sullivan with JTAC.

Councillor Oliver asked what protection is being used to prevent hackers from entering the system and keeping private information secure. Justice Sullivan said part of their reason for hiring computer associates is because of their expertise in developing a sophisticated and hard-to-crack system. There is a certain amount of information that courts maintain that by law has to be kept confidential.

PROPOSAL NO. 350, 2004 – approves a transfer and increase of \$24,810 in the 2004 Budget of the Department of Public Safety, Police Division (Non-Lapsing Federal Grants Funds), to fund regional training on domestic violence conducted by the Julian Center and to fund Weed and Seed initiatives determined after the budget process, financed by a transfer between characters and a grant from the Federal Department of Justice

Elizabeth Allison, grants manager for the Indianapolis Police Department (IPD), said when working with grant funds lots of changes can be made throughout the process. The Julian Center and Weed and Seed program are multi-year grants. Sometimes they have to decide up front how they think the government is going to deliver the money and then ask for a transfer of funds when the decision has been changed. Grant funds in the amount of \$17,624 are not being used by other agencies in their project, and the grant team has decided to give those funds to the Julian Center. Ms. Allison explained Exhibit C.

Frank Walker, citizen, said he is opposing the transfer of funds to the Julian Center. He does not think the center is qualified to do these trainings due to their public statements on their definition of domestic violence.

Councillor Franklin asked for additional information on the Weed and Seed program and how to get it started on the eastside. Ms. Allison said they are working on putting a Weed and Seed

initiative grant proposal to have the 38th Street and Post Road area recognized as a Weed and Seed site. She said at one time Indianapolis was the only city in the country to have six Weed and Seed sites at one time. Now the government has restricted the number of sites to three, which they already have. She said they are working in conjunction with the City of Lawrence to have them put in the proposal for recognition in that part of the City.

Councillor Talley moved, seconded by Councillor Oliver, to send Proposal No. 350, 2004 to the full Council with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 351, 2004 – approves an increase of \$312,761 in the 2004 Budget of the Department of Public Safety, Emergency Management and Planning Division (Non-Lapsing Federal Grants Fund), to purchase National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) certified air purifying respirators and chemical warfare canisters and to fund additional needs of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, financed by grants from the Federal Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Chuck Butler, Emergency Management and Planning Division, said the increase of \$312,761 is for the purpose of purchasing NIOSH-approved gas masks for the first responders on the street. Currently the first responders do not have gas masks. The agencies receiving the masks are: Indianapolis Police Department (IPD), Marion County Sheriffs Department, emergency medical workers, Beech Grove, Lawrence, and Speedway.

Chairwoman Moriarty Adams asked how many masks are being purchased. Mr. Bulter said 1,350 masks are being purchased. Included in the purchase are canisters, voice amplifiers, bags for the equipment, and adaptors for upgrade assistance.

Councillor Franklin asked if the amount of masks being purchased are enough for all the agencies listed. Mr. Bulter said there are some of the agencies that have the masks now and are not included in the amount.

Councillor Plowman asked what type of mask is being purchased. Mr. Butler said they are Mine Safety Appliance Company (MSA) Millennium Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) masks.

Councillor McWhirter asked how the masks are designated to different agencies. Mr. Bulter said a survey was conducted on the agencies’ needs, and those agencies that responded are going to get the amount of masks they need.

Councillor Talley moved, seconded by Councillor Oliver, to send Proposal 351, 2004 to the full Council with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 352, 2004 – approves an increase of \$3,200 in the 2004 Budget of the Department of Public Safety, Animal Care and Control Division (Consolidated County Fund), to pay for the design and installation of billboard advertisements promoting the Canine Crime Stoppers program, financed by private donations

Jeff Bennett, administrator, Animal Care & Control Division, said in March 2003 Indianapolis Animal Care & Control launched the Canine Crime Stoppers program, a partnership with the Indianapolis Police Department and Central Indiana Crime Stoppers. This is the first program in the country to address dog fighting. They have produced posters to go along with billboards in targeted areas. Those targeted areas include 10th Street to 46th Street and College to Arlington. In these areas they received the most phone calls to investigate dog fighting.

Councillor Oliver said he represents part of the targeted area and supports their efforts.

Mr. Bennett said with dog fighting there seems to be a connection with other criminal activity. Already within the two months of the Canine Crime Stoppers program they have generated more phone calls than the last two years.

Councillor Talley moved, seconded by Councillor Oliver, to send Proposal 352, 2004 to the full Council with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 353, 2004 – approves an increase of \$2,450 in the 2004 Budget of Marion County Superior Court (State and Federal Grants Fund) to provide security services to the court extended to June 30, 2004, funded by a grant from Southeast Umbrella Organization

PROPOSAL NO. 355, 2004 – approves an increase of \$25,000 in the 2004 Budget of Marion County Superior Court (State and Federal Grants Fund) to provide a community work services coordinator for Community Court., funded by a grant from Department of Justice, Southeast Umbrella Organization

PROPOSAL NO. 356, 2004 – approves a transfer of \$52,500 in the 2004 Budget of the Marion County Superior Court (State and Federal Grants Fund) to transfer Character 01 money to Character 02 and 03, to cover additional programming and operating expenses at the Community Court

Sue Patterson, Court Administrator, asked permission to change the order of presenting proposals to hear Proposal Nos. 353, 355 and 356, 2004 together. Committee members gave Ms. Patterson consent to hear all three proposals. Ms. Patterson introduced two representatives of Marion County Community Court, Commissioner Anna Chris and Tina Fine, Community Court Coordinator. She gave an overview of the proposals.

Councillor McWhirter asked in Proposal No. 353, 2004 if the fund is only extended to June 30, 2004, what happens after that date. Ms. Fine said the money had to be spent by June 30, 2004. They wrote another grant that has already been approved by Committee for July 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005.

Councillor Adams asked if security after hours is part-time. Ms. Fine replied in the affirmative and stated that the Community Impact Panel is the reason the security is needed. The panel is an alternative to police officers in the community. If there is a disagreement between parties, instead of arresting them, they can be referred to the panel after hours so they do not miss work.

Councillor Talley asked what the compensation is for those on the panel. Ms. Chris said it is voluntary. Councillor Talley asked for more information on the Community Court to be presented to the Committee. Ms. Fine said she would be happy to come back and present information to the Committee.

Councillor Franklin commended the ladies for their smart spending. Chairwoman Moriarty Adams also commended the Community Court on their Community Work Service program. Ms. Chris said the initiative of the Community Court is to give back community service where the crime was committed. Twenty-three thousand hours was given back to the community for weed cleaning, alley cleaning, trash pick-up, etc.

Councillor Talley said that it is good for the community, but also the defenders feel good about the work they are doing. Ms. Chris agreed and said that the defenders take some pride in the work they have done and have a sense of pride with the neighborhood.

Councillor Oliver asked how can one get access to the program and is the work program only on public property. Ms. Chris said there are some issues when work is done on private property. They usually work with residents who have no ability to do the work themselves but are careful who they put in to do the work. Councillor Oliver asked what kind of equipment the defenders are allowed to use. Ms. Fine said they use lawn mowers, weed cutters, rakes, etc. Ms. Chris said the Community Court only focuses on the south and east side of town, but research is being done in other areas where the Community Court services will be needed.

Councillor Talley moved, seconded by Councillor Oliver, to send Proposal Nos. 353, 355, and 356, 2004 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 354, 2004 – approves an increase of \$10,000 in the 2004 Budget of Marion County Superior Court (State and Federal Grants Fund) to appropriate a grant for court interpreter services, funded by a grant from Division of State Court Administration

Ms. Patterson said that from 1996 to 2003 they have seen a 500% increase in the amount of Marion County Superior Court must spend each year on interpreters. They will spend about \$200,000 per year.

Councillor Talley asked if the interpreter works for the court and not the defender or prosecutor. Ms. Patterson said they actually contract with five Spanish-speaking interpreters and they provide interpretation for the court to the defendant. Sometimes the public defender needs assistance with a plea agreement and the information needs to be interpreted.

Councillor McWhirter asked if a full-time person will be hired instead of contracting out. Ms. Patterson said the current interpreters are paid \$65.00 a session and the sessions are from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. If the courts brought in these personnel with benefits it would be more expensive. She believes at some point the City needs to look into bringing interpreters in on a much larger scale.

Chairwoman Moriarty Adams asked if the grant is to contract more interpreters in addition to the current five interpreters. Ms. Patterson replied in the affirmative. Chairwoman Moriarty Adams asked how many people that would cover. Ms. Patterson said in 2003 they had 1,935 defendants that received interpreter services. They are also responsible for civil court needs. The \$10,000 will possibly fund a month's worth, depending on the workload.

Councillor Oliver moved, seconded by Councillor Talley, to send Proposal No. 354, 2004 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 357, 2004 – approves an increase of \$496,380 in the 2004 Budget of Marion County Superior Court (State and Federal Grants Fund) to appropriate Young Offenders grant for salaries and contractual attorneys for the Expedited Court, funded by a grant from U.S. Department of Justice, Edward Byrne Memorial Grant

Ms. Patterson said this is the second year they have received this grant for the Young Offenders program. This is a long standing program of the Marion County Superior Court. They are extremely lucky to continue to receive the funding for this program. The grant funds Court staff, public defenders, and a prosecutor. The program's goal is to identify young offenders and try to intervene to keep them away from more serious crimes.

Chairwoman Moriarty Adams asked how long the grant period is. Ms. Patterson said this is the second year of a four-year cycle. Judge David Shaheed has put a lot of focus on young offenders, 18 to 25 years old, specifically with drug related offenses, and is trying to divert them from more serious crimes. Chairwoman Moriarty Adams asked if it is usually the first offense with drugs with the young offenders. Ms. Patterson said she is not sure because the focus is on the age, but she will provide that information to Chairwoman Moriarty Adams.

Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee
June 23, 2004
Page 6

Councillor Oliver moved, seconded by Councillor Talley, to send Proposal No. 357, 2004 to the full Council with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

CONCLUSION

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Moriarty Adams, Chairwoman
Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee

MMA/as